



Banking Committee
Public Hearing – March 2, 2021
Committee Bill 150
An Act Establishing The Connecticut Infrastructure Authority

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Support – with one concern

Dear Senator Kasser, Representative Doucette, Senator Berthel, Representative Delnicki, and Members of the Committee,

The Connecticut Construction Industries Association (CCIA) supports this bill in general for the reason that the existing revenue streams and financing mechanisms sustaining the state's infrastructure programs cannot keep pace with the State's mounting transportation, facility, and clean water needs. An infrastructure authority would provide an additional means to help fill a growing deficit between current revenue streams and much needed investments.

A properly formed state infrastructure authority in Connecticut would provide new funding and a new financing mechanism for projects that otherwise would be delayed or not delivered at all. Establishing an infrastructure authority would be a valuable part of the comprehensive long-term plan to modernize and sustain the basic infrastructure that Connecticut needs.

However, CCIA is concerned that the language in Section 5(b)(1) is overly broad in that it permits the Authority to use “[a]ny federal funds” for the purposes set forth in section 2. This provision should be limited in order to avoid conflicts or competition with Connecticut State Agency use of federal funds. For example: Connecticut State transportation funding and clean water funding programs are underfunded on the state level and very dependent on federal funding as the State of Connecticut agencies work to meet the needs of the current systems. Permitting another entity within the State to compete for the much-needed federal funding that is critical to supporting the State programs is not in the best interest of the State.

CCIA urges the Committee to pursue an infrastructure authority as a supplement to provide for robust state transportation, facility and clean water programs. Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

Respectfully submitted:
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